













# Autumn Agricultural and Economic Survey of the Province of Alberta

Survey of the production season just closing, and of present economic and marketing conditions in the province, leads to belief that there will be a modest improvement in the position of the farming community in general this fall, and in economic conditions generally throughout the province. In spite of a difficult crop season, in which there was a number of disappointing features, a substantially larger volume of wheat was produced than that of last year, though a large proportion of it of much lower grade. The expectation at present is that the grain will bring a higher price than that for which last season's crop was marketed. An abundance of feed has been produced in various districts, for which there is a strong demand at good prices. The live stock situation gives promise of improvement, and while the cattle market has not yet advanced to any great degree, the situation in the hog industry has been very satisfactory for most of the year thus far, with good prices and a very marked advance made by producers in the quality of product. Recently, however, the trend of the market locally has been downward.

In the dairy industry, a substantial advance in the amount of butter production has been recorded. In the poultry industry prices are somewhat better. Improvement in some of the other features of the survey is noted, with a number of encouraging features in this field.

## THE CROP SEASON

The crop season has been one of the most unusual in several respects in the history of the province. At this date a large proportion of the harvesting of wheat and other grains still remains to be done, due to the unusually prolonged spell of rain which has projected into the middle of the harvesting operations on September 12, and lasting almost three weeks. During this period snow and frost alternated with rains to such an extent that throughout the entire province. Threshing was resumed a week ago under more favorable weather conditions, over most of the province, but in the Peace River valley the work continued and delayed somewhat longer. The crop season opened with an unusually early, warm day, followed by a period of rainy weather in which most parts of the province received a substantial amount of moisture, and prospects were for a good season. Only in the north, where drought conditions prevailed in the south-eastern districts extending from the Coronation line to the Peace River to the main line, and these con-

ditions, with the ravages of grasshoppers, took heavy toll of the growing crop. Southern districts of the province, comprising chiefly the Lethbridge division of the C.P.R. from the mountain east to the Saskatchewan border, continued to receive satisfactory rains, and grain crops advanced to harvest under almost ideal conditions in most of the territory.

North of Calgary, from Olds north to as far as Ponoka, and eastward from the mountain across the central part of the province, unusually dry conditions prevailed following the month of June, and this territory has failed to produce to its normal extent this season. Not only have grain crops suffered from this condition, but heavy frosts, but production of feed usually heavy there, has fallen below normal.

In the north central and northern parts of the province, the season was for the most part one of ideal growing conditions, with substantial precipitation throughout the season. The prospect in these districts until the middle of August was for almost bumper crops of all grains. On the 24th of August a blighting frost occurred covering the territory from Athabasca south to Red Deer and from west of Edmonton to the eastern boundary of the province. This frost caught a fairly large proportion of the wheat and most of the coarse grains uncut, and the damage to these was extensive, as it was to most of the vegetable crops in the territory affected. This was the heaviest August frost experienced in this part of the province for many years. The chief damage done by the frost was in the loss of from two to three grades on wheat crops, and a very heavy loss on the yield and grade of coarse grains.

The Peace River district, which experienced an ideal growing season and had, in prospect, the heaviest harvest in the history of the district, was not affected by the August frost. The wheat harvesting season generally opening somewhat earlier than usual, and cutting throughout the province was practically completed at a comparatively early date, and was well under way in the central districts at the time of the August frost. By the week of September 10, during which week snow fell over almost the entire province and the prolonged period of bad weather set in, the harvesting was practically completed throughout the province save a few holds in the north. The cold weather, which lasted almost three weeks and delayed threshing in all parts, brought heavy falls of snow to nearly all districts, which alternated with rains and

heavy frosts. Snow fell heaviest throughout the districts south of Calgary, and temperatures fell to as low as 28 degrees of frost at Lethbridge, and to a level of five below zero in the mountain districts. In central and northern districts frost to the extent of ten to eighteen degrees was recorded on different dates. This was the severest further to reduce the quality of the grass remaining uncut. In the Peace River district no threshing had been done when the bad weather arrived and some 20 per cent of the cutting also remained to be done.

## DAMAGE BY GRASSHOPPERS

Once again the province suffered a fairly widespread infestation of grasshoppers, covering the south-eastern southern and south-western parts of the province in varying degrees of intensity. The thorough poisoning campaign conducted by the provincial department of agriculture, with the full cooperation of the Dominion and Alberta university entomological departments and the farmers and municipalities co-acted, was successful in holding the damage to a minimum.

## DAMAGE BY HAIL

Severe hailstorms visited several localities of the province during the season, districts suffering most being those to the north and north-east of Lethbridge, and a strip of territory across the central part from Sylvan Lake to beyond Stettin, which were visited by two disastrous storms in July, causing damage of from 50 to 100 per cent in some crops.

## THE WHEAT YIELD

While it is difficult, owing to the great volume of threshing still to be done, to arrive at a final estimate of the yield of wheat, it is fairly certain that the total yield will be greater than was obtained in 1933. The provincial department of agriculture is of the opinion, subject to revision when threshing returns are more complete, that the average yield of wheat over the province will prove to be between 14 and 15 bushels per acre over the seeded area of 7,700,000 acres, giving a total production of between 108,000,000 and 112,000,000 bushels, which is compared with the unseeded estimate of the 1933 crop of 94,500,000 bushels with a provincial average of 12 bushels.

Inspection of wheat for this season from August 15th to Sept. 30th, that Calgary and Edmonton have totalled 7,572 cars, compared with 7,244 cars for the same period of 1933. The heavy increase this year for the period has been in Calgary where 5,215 cars had been inspected compared with 3,474 cars last year at this time. At Edmonton there has been from 2,270 cars in 1933 to 2,457 cars this season in September 30th. Grading showed 88.3 per cent of inspections at Calgary to be No. 2 or better, which is about the same as last year, while the drop in grade at Edmonton thus far has been from 81.1 per cent in 1933 to 72.2 per cent this year.

## THE FEED SITUATION

There is an abundance of feed for the province for provincial needs. So far as drought areas are concerned, not much longer feed will be required, but some grain will be needed. The provincial department of agriculture is buying feed at present on an emergency basis. There has been a good production of green feed in northern districts, and the south-western part of the province has produced considerable hay and other feed. Alfalfa production in the irrigated districts was somewhat lower than usual. Hay is plentiful, the having districts suffering from wet weather and other handicaps. There will be plenty of low grade wheat and barley for use as feed. Prices are higher than for some time for all feeds, and there is good demand not only from the domestic market but from the United States, where it is possible a market will be found for the Alberta surplus. There is a much shorter supply of seed grain than usual, but an abundance of good seed material will be available from northern districts. Good prices are being obtained.

## THE LIVE STOCK SITUATION

Livestock generally is facing the winter season in fairly good condition. In order to avoid the necessity for the shipping in feed for cattle to the dry areas, the provincial government is removing surplus cattle of the poorer type from these areas, and disposing of them, the poorest of them going to packers, and the balance to farmers clear for feeding or breeding purposes.

While the market prices for cattle have not yet improved to any great extent, there is indication of somewhat better conditions. Movement of Alberta beef cattle to the British Columbia market has been continued at the same rate as last year. Some 3,000 head were finished on feed lots in the central part of the province during the season under the farmer-catcher feeding contract system, resulting plans for the coming winter season are not yet complete.

There has been fairly good demand for horses, at increased prices. An inquiry recently was made through the contract system, resulting plans for the coming winter season are not yet complete.

The hog industry is in a very satisfactory state, with good prices maintained throughout the present year. The crop of the province during the season under the farmer-catcher feeding contract system, resulting plans for the coming winter season are not yet complete.

## THE DAIRY INDUSTRY

Returns of production thus far for this season from the 92 creameries operating in the province indicate the probability of a new all-time record in production. For the eighth month

ending August 31st, the estimated total production was 20,250,000 pounds for the same period last year. The increase was 10.5 per cent. The production in the southern portion of the province is a slight increase, while the northern section shows a very substantial increase. While the production figures for cheese are not available until the end of the month, the figures for butter are here will also be shown. Consumption of dairy products is reported to be slightly in excess of last year, and the trend of market prices has been generally upward during these times of difficult economic conditions.

## THE POLTRY SITUATION

The prices paid producers for eggs during the year have been approximately 25 per cent higher than last year. The total egg production is estimated to be about 6 per cent lower than last year due to further reduction in the size of the smaller farm flocks. Specialized poultry producers have increased their holdings owing to the more favorable market situation, and a large percentage of the specialized producers are marketing their eggs direct to the retailer and consumer.

So noticeable is the increase in the price of eggs that the average price of a dozen is now only 6 per cent higher than last year. The turkey crop is estimated to be about 10 per cent larger than last year, and reports from turkey farmers would indicate that this increase is due to the low price levels that have prevailed in the past few years.

On the other hand, over the greater part of the Province is above the average of the last year.

## SUGAR BEET CROP

Reports from the irrigated sections of the province indicate that the effect to the effect that a better crop is being harvested this season than last year. The crop was not seriously affected by recent snow and frost, and the beet harvest is well advanced. The sugar beet crop is estimated to be about 10 per cent larger than last year on the average, with the total production of 150,000 tons.

## EXPERIMENTS IN THE IRRIGATED DISTRICTS

The experimental work being done in the irrigated districts are of interest. In the Taber district this year, for the first time, a large number of alfalfa plants have been planted under arrangement with a local manufacturing concern. This year has been harvested under some handicap from snow and frost of recent date. The most part of the crop has been fairly satisfactory. Undamaged parts of the crop have been rated as being of high quality. The new Taber canning factory commencing operations during the fall, and has processed a large quantity of alfalfa from the surrounding irrigation districts. Operators of the factory appear to be fairly well satisfied with the first season's operations.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

Total coal production for the eight months ending August 31st this year was 2,574,205 tons, compared with 2,497,105 tons for the same period of last year.

The eight-month production of petroleum for this year was 822,228 barrels, compared with 822,454 barrels for the same period of 1933. Timber production for the 1933-34 fiscal year showed an improved condition over the 1932-33 year; the lumber production being 25,298,062 board feet compared with 22,736,467 board feet in the previous year. Other lines of timber production showed similar increases.

Interest has been shown in the recent discovery of gold on the northern shore of Lake Athabasca in the Athabasca part of the province. A considerable number of claims have been filed, but no sufficient information is forthcoming as yet definitely to establish the extent and value of the discovery.

## DEVELOPMENT OF TAR SANDS

Arnold McMurray, in the northern part of Alberta, there are enormous beds of bituminous sands, which have yielded to one of the foremost engineers of the world for the separating of the hydrocarbons from the sands to come the fact that the world's oil fields in the world. For many years, the engineering skill and money have been spent in an endeavor to perfect a simple, efficient process, and just recently, Mr. Max B. Denver and his associate Mr. McMurray, after many years of effort, evolved what appears to be such a process. There has been set up in Toronto a pilot plant for the separation of the sands and within the next two or three weeks there will be joined with it a new type of refining plant, designed by the British Empire Refining Company of Los Angeles. Those who have seen the preliminary tests on the separation process are to be a complete success, and there is every reason to hope that the solution of the problem of the development of vast natural oil and asphalt resources. The solution will mean complete independence of the British Empire for oil.

## GENERAL CONDITIONS

Some improvement in unemployment situation has been noted, due to absorption of men into seasonal employment, or into employment occasioned by the undertaking of certain public works by the federal and provincial governments. The prospect for general business appears to be somewhat better than was the case at this time last year, though the serious delay in harvesting operations and consequent delay in marketing of grain, had a temporary deleterious effect.

While Canada is finding new markets for dried milk products, Russia is seeking a bid to increase her exports to this line. A large factory, with an annual capacity of 5,000 tons of dried milk, has been built at Valdivovsk on the Trans-Siberian Railway, in a district in the Urals famous before the war for its dairy cows and butter.

Rubber mile posts that are pushed out of the way when struck by an automobile and then rebound into position, have been installed along some German highways.

Java holds the world's record for having the most hurricanes.

# Bank Support For Business

(The North-West Press.)

There has been manifested in some quarters a tendency to adversely criticize the Canadian banks on the ground that they have not been extending the assistance that might reasonably be expected from them in financing the ordinary times of business. During these times of difficult economic conditions.

In the endeavor to meet this criticism and to show the helpful part that Canadian banks have played in supporting the business community, the monthly commercial letter of the Canadian Bank of Commerce observers generally that the simple fact seems to have been lost to sight that as commodity prices fell a smaller volume of credit was required to finance production and trade. For example, the wheat stocks of Canada on March 31, 1929 and 1934, were practically equal, yet owing to the difference in wheat prices in the two years the supply in the latter could have been financed with about half the money required in 1929. Carrying this thought through the entire business cycle, it follows that if the aggregate volume of bank advances have been less than in 1929, it is due in large part to the fact that low commodity prices rendered necessary a lesser volume of bank credit.

The deeper depths of depression have been the stability and credit in Canada, prevented any undue soundings may be surmised from the statistics of the nation, where according to the Comptroller of the Currency, the following figures for the period 1925-1929 resulted in liquidation of bank credit to the amount of two billions of dollars. As this depression was accelerated in the next few years, a remarkable success in liquidation of bank credit was achieved, and that very many capable and solvent business men and farmers of the country were followed into bankruptcy.

The comparatively lenient attitude of the banks has been one of the factors to adapt towards their borrowers, thus assisting them in marked degree, to survive the depression. It is not to be attributed entirely to altruistic motive on the part of the banks, but to the diversifying their risks, both locally and industrially, less the fundamental reason for the banker's tolerance to hard times.

The vellow most men is a part that has been in the past, and in time in Canada. With the most or four placed outside in a rat-proof receptacle, rose temperatures will kill all the pests in a night. If the temperature is above 60 degrees Fahrenheit, it is better, says the Drosophila Entomologist, to leave the food out two days.

# Bright Stories about Wine

"In the sunset land where thou art gone, Hast wine to drink, Anacron?—DON MARQUEZ."

● This is the first of a series of articles which will tell you a lot about wine, if you are patient enough to read them. It is a great story and has in the past, a long history. It is a story which has inspired some noble bards, and if we translate the grape into barley, some notable Scots reviewers. The culture of the vine is as ancient as occupation of the earth, and in some countries it has become as great an industry.

● In Ontario, the Niagara district, famed for its fruits, has been increasing renown for the quality of its grapes and the wine that has been pressed from them. The story of Niagara wine is part of the lore of Canada. It may be in time that in other parts of the Dominion there will be developed local wine for the needs of the people. The story of Niagara wine is explained that wherever the grape can be grown, its nobler purpose can be to some extent fulfilled.

● We do not suggest that one may look forward with any reasonable hope to the time when there will be a Saskatchewan Chateau LaFite or an Alberta Chateau de la Vigne. We suggest that it was through no spirit of niggardliness that we refrained from sending her a bottle of Canadian wine for the purpose. In fact, we stand ready to provide Canadian wine for all such ceremonies in the future.

● Perhaps you noticed the other day that, when Queen Mary launched her gigantic namesake from the Clyde dockyard, she started it with a bottle of Australian wine. We may say that it was through no spirit of niggardliness that we refrained from sending her a bottle of Canadian wine for the purpose. In fact, we stand ready to provide Canadian wine for all such ceremonies in the future.

● The point worth noting is that, in this conspicuous way, royalty called attention to the fact that, in the British Commonwealth of Nations, there is produced wine for its celebration the launching of the greatest of ships, and wine fit for this is obviously fit for lesser occasions. Thus not only the wines of Australia, and particularly the wines of South Australia which is the chief wine-producing state of the Antipodes, but the wines generally of the Empire were strikingly called to the attention of the world.

● The time has passed when only the wines of France and Portugal and Spain and Italy were met for royal recognition. There are Empire wines from South Africa and Australia and Canada which are gradually finding markets in many parts of the world. Those who know them at the best find them to fulfill all requirements of much more expensive wines. It is true the Australian wine differs from the French wine as much as the kangaroo differs from the Gallic cock. But who is to say it is inferior?

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These ads have been approved by the Alberta Liquor Control Board.

Is There Merit Here?

The Alberta Pool Elevator system has enjoyed a high reputation among grain growers of the province and the organization is making every effort to justify the confidence it is reposed in it. It is a modern, efficient and equitable treatment to all patrons.

Grain growers will find the Alberta Pool Agent anxious to obtain and merit your business.

Alberta Pool Elevators

"Help me WITH MY HOMEWORK, Mother"

HE isn't dull or lazy. But he is handicapped by poor lighting in his home. It's almost as if he wore smoked glasses, to study!

Don't let your child strain his eyes if he holds a book noticeably closer than 14 inches, he needs better light, and possibly glasses. Nearly one-fourth of all grade children suffer from damaged eyesight. Science now reveals that much of this may be avoided.

An indirect lamp will extend the safety zone with soft, restful light, ideal for children at play or study. It will make study and reading easier and more pleasant. See the attractive indirect lamps at your dealer's store.

Lighting rules easy to follow

1. Use lamp bulbs of correct wattage. The minimum 14-watt Edison or Edison for a socket lamp, 40-watt for a socket lamp, 100-watt for single socket lamps.
2. Have all lamp bulbs shaded. For portable, a shade light in color, white in spread, and open at the top.
3. Never read in glaring light, or in your own shadow.
4. Always use lamp bulbs of reputable make. Inferior ones burn out and blacken quickly.

ALBERTA LITERATURE

PHONE 220

GRANDE PRAIRIE

GRANDE PRAIRIE

# ILLUSTRATED NEWS OF THE WEEK - A SPECIAL TRIBUNE FEATURE

THE BEST OF THE WEEK'S INTERESTING NEWS PICTURES



LONDON'S NEW LORD MAYOR AT THE GUILDHALL.

This picture shows Sir Stephen Killip (right center), Lord Mayor-elect of London, with Sir Louis Newton, the acting Lord Mayor, at the Guildhall after election ceremonies. The present Lord Mayor, Sir Charles Collett, was unable to attend owing to ill-health.



MODERN CONVEYANCE INVADERS ANCIENT HUNT

The Farley Hill hounds at Hook Common, Hants, have gone in for modern transportation in a big way. It used to be considered the proper thing to go to the meet on all-fours, but now the hounds prefer to travel by trailer, with setting over the top as a safeguard against falling out.



The poet and Mussolini.

Gabriele D'Annunzio

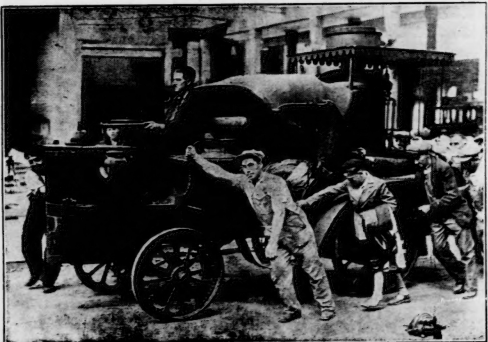
MUSSOLINI AND POET "MAKE UP"

Italy's two most famous persons have decided to make up. As a result, Premier Mussolini, with good-humored willingness, went to see Gabriele d'Annunzio at the latter's fantastic estate, Vittoriale, on the shores of Lake Garda. The aged, one-eyed poet, hero of the Fiume liberation expedition, since 1924 has refused to stir from his monastic seclusion, even to pay his respects to Il Duce, so the black shirt dictator pocketed his pride and went visiting.



NEW LAW COURTS ERECTED IN CAIRO

This picture shows the latest addition to Cairo's group of fine structures. It is the Mixed Courts Building, which is to be opened shortly, and is the most elaborate of all the law courts in Egypt.



AN OLD STAGER STEALS THE SHOW AT THE EXHIBITION

It was not very many years ago that this elegant steam car was considered one of the most wonderful inventions ever seen. Today the modern stream-lined automobile makes it look like a pile of junk. Nevertheless, it was one of the main attractions at the recent motor show in Paris. The old car was built by Leon Bolles.



WIFE OF REGENT

Princess Olga, above, attractive social favorite in the continent, comes into the European political limelight now that her husband, Prince Paul, has been appointed one of the three regents to guide the destinies of Yugoslavia until youthful King Peter becomes of age.

## A Few Items of World Interest

A civic lottery to help raise funds necessary for administration of the city's finances has been mooted by Mayor Hamilton House of Montreal.

To preserve peace, the world needs a "brain trust," an opinion of the Japanese ambassador to Italy, contends.

Drastic punishment will be meted out to all miners caught smoking cigarettes on the streets of Nanking, according to orders just issued by Mayor Shih Ying.

The Dominion treasury now holds gold to the value of \$72,807,276, which is \$16,907,400 in excess of statutory requirements, a report of the finance

department issued at Ottawa, says. Against this gold there are notes in circulation to the amount of \$207,063,548.

Carrying 4,049,877 bushels of wheat to the markets of Europe, chiefly Great Britain, 15 vessels cleared from the Hudson Bay port of Churchill, Man., during the 1934 navigation season.

H. E. Sellers of Winnipeg was re-elected president and all officers and directors returned to office at the annual general meeting of the Alberta Pacific Grain Company, Limited, at Calgary.

A reprieve has been granted the George Leathers, charged with murdering Constable Glenhorne, from October 26 to February 27. The appeal to the British Columbia Supreme Court is not yet over.

Thomas Colvin, Cowichan oldtimer, has sailed from Montreal for Scotland, and in the Shetlands will visit a sister, he has not seen for 53 years.



MR. S. DELEGATE

Here is Mr. Norman Davis, one of Uncle Sam's delegates to the Naval Conference in London. For the last two or three years Mr. Davis has been referred to as the "American Ambassador at Large."

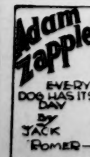


"Can you tell me where that sign was made? It's my husband's handwriting and I want to find him." —The Humourist, London.



GOES TO TURKEY!

Hon. Iyemasa Tokugawa, Japanese minister to Canada, who is reported to be in line for promotion to the post of Japanese Ambassador to Turkey.



## CAN IT BE DONE? - By Ray Cross



Do you think this idea is practical? Write Ray Cross in care of this newspaper.





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